

March 14, 2011

Joanne Hoffman, Mother

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1098-
AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA
AND SALVIA DIVINORUM.**

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in **support of Raised Bill #1098**. My name is Joanne Hoffman, I'm the parent of a 19 y/o drug addict, I'm here today to share with you my personal concerns about k2, because unfortunately I have a personal experience.

My daughter was in rehabilitation in FL for opiate addiction recently for a year. She came home in Oct. knowing that we would be doing random drug testing. Things appeared to be going well but then her behavior changed. We could swear she was smoking pot, which we had experienced with her before; she was sleeping a lot, lacked motivation, and couldn't find a job (at holiday time). My husband searched her car and found K2 (synthetic marijuana). As is the case with many kids, once they start with 1 drug it can lead to others. This time, in addition to smoking K2, she had also started smoking Crack. As she describes K2, it messes up her stomach, turns her bowels green and makes her heart race worse than crack. But as is the case with so many drug users, they don't care about adverse reactions – only the high. You can put all the warnings you want on a label, but *warnings* don't stop kids from doing stupid things. My daughter used K2, not only because it doesn't show up in home drug tests, but also because it's cheap and easily available and a little bit goes a long way.

Although K2 isn't classified as a drug, per se, this item is being used by kids AS a drug, to get high, and it's available LEGALLY everywhere. It is allowing HER and many other kids to get high *with society's permission*. It's also much more potent than pot. Having these drugs so readily available makes my daughter's sobriety very difficult. There is a feeling that there is nothing wrong with it since you can purchase it at the local Gas Station and/or Convenience Store.

Just because K2 and salvia are *legal* doesn't mean they are ok to use. They are very dangerous in their use, and life threatening at worst.

I support these bills to Ban the sale of these DRUGS!!!